



St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
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5:00 - Contemporary



January 7, 2023

Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Contemporary Worship Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

Today's service includes the Lord's Supper. If you are a first-time visitor and wish to receive Holy Communion, please speak with one of our Elders or myself prior to service .

May God bless your worship with us today,
Paul Kruse, Pastor

E-mail: paul@stjohnhl.com

Mobile: 989-992-6030

***Compelled by the Love of Christ to Live, Learn,
Share, and Serve'***

*Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of
Christian faith in our community, to all
generations, wherever they may be'*

A Time of Preparation

Preludes

"One Small Child" *(Instrumental)*

Welcome, Sharing of the Peace and Call To Worship

Opening Song

"The First Noel"

The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel

Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel

Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought
And with his blood mankind has bought.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel

Born is the King of Israel!

Confession and Forgiveness

Song of Praise

“We Three Kings”

We three kings of Orient are Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain Following yonder star

O Star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy Perfect Light
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never Over us all to rein

O Star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy Perfect Light

Glorious now behold Him arise King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia Earth to heav'n replies

O Star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy Perfect Light

First Reading

Psalm 72:1-15

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!

² May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!

³ Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!

⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor! ⁵ May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations! ⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!

⁷ In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more! ⁸ May he have dominion from sea to sea and from the River to the ends

of the earth! ⁹ May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust!

¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute;

may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! ¹¹ May all kings fall down before

him, all nations serve him! ¹² For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor

and him who has no helper. ¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves

the lives of the needy. ¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life,

and precious is their blood in his sight. ¹⁵ Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be

given to him! May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all the day!

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men^a from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose^b and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Message Song

"How Many Kings"

Follow the star to a place unexpected
Would you believe after all we've projected
A child in a manger

Lowly and small the weakest of all
Unlikeliest Hero wrapped in His mother's shawl
Just a child

Is this who we've waited for ... 'cause

How many kings stepped down from their thrones
How many lords have abandoned their homes
How many greats have become the least for me
And how many gods have poured out their hearts
To romance a world that is torn all apart
How many fathers gave up their sons for me

Bringing out gifts for the newborn Savior
All that we have whether costly or meek
Because we believe

Gold for His honor and frankincense for His pleasure
And myrrh for the cross He'll suffer

Do you believe

Is this who we've waited for

How many kings stepped down from their thrones
How many lords have abandoned their homes
How many greats have become the least for me
How many gods have poured out their hearts
To romance a world that is torn all apart
How many fathers gave up their sons for me
Only one did that for me

How many kings stepped down from their thrones
How many lords have abandoned their homes
How many greats have become the least
How many gods have poured out their hearts

To romance a world that is torn all apart
How many fathers gave up their sons for me
Only one did that for me

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Message

"Star Light"

Offering

Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you directly to our donation site.



Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- G** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Sacrament

The Words of Our Lord

Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

The Lord gave this Holy Sacrament to His Church so that His followers might receive His love and forgiveness in a visible, tangible way. When the Church celebrates this Sacrament, believers are also making a public declaration of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 11:26). Holy Communion is offered every Sunday at St. John Lutheran, but because it is possible to receive the Lord's Supper to one's detriment (1 Cor. 11:27-29), we ask all who wish to partake of it to examine themselves as follows:

- 1. Do I believe that I am a sinner and therefore deserve God's punishment?*
- 2. Am I truly sorry that by my sins I have offended God?*
- 3. Do I believe that God accepts the death of Jesus as payment for my sins and therefore forgives my sins for Jesus' sake alone and not because of any goodness or effort on my part?*

4. *Do I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to turn from my sins?*
5. *Do I seek to forgive others as God has forgiven me?*
6. *Do I believe Christ's own Word that His body and blood are truly given and received in and with the bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-28)?*

If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and can answer "yes" to the above questions, you are invited to receive Holy Communion with the assurance of all the blessings Scripture promises.

Distribution Song

"Bethlehem"

Starlight in a mother's eyes A Holy Child is born
Kings and shepherds on their knees Adoring Christ the Lord

Bethlehem Bethlehem Behold Your beautiful Savior
Fall down worship Him The King born in Bethlehem

He knew the secrets of the world His lips could not yet speak
Heaven wrapped in flesh and blood The Son of Majesty

Bethlehem Bethlehem Behold Your beautiful Savior
Fall down worship Him The King born in Bethlehem

Fall down worship the Hope of Israel
Come and adore Him Jesus Emmanuel
Fall down worship the Hope of Israel
Come and adore Him Jesus Emmanuel

Bethlehem Bethlehem Behold Your beautiful Savior
Fall down worship Him The King born in Bethlehem
You're the King born in Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight

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Blessing

☞ The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

☞ Amen.

Sending Song

"Glory" (Let There Be Peace)

One star burns in the darkness, shines with the promise, Emmanuel.

One child born in the stillness, living within us, Emmanuel.

We're singing: Glory, Glory.

Let there be peace. Let there be peace.

Singing: Glory, Glory. Let there be peace. Let it start in me.

One voice speaks for the voiceless, hope for the hopeless, Emmanuel.

One love brings us together, now and forever, Emmanuel.

We're singing: Glory, Glory.

Let there be peace. Let there be peace.

Singing: Glory, Glory. Let there be peace. Let it start in me.

Do not be afraid. His love is strong enough to save us.

Nothing stands in the way. His love is strong enough to lead us.

Do not be afraid. His love is strong enough to save us.

Nothing stands in the way. His love is strong enough to lead us.

Glory, Glory. Let there be peace. Let there be peace.

Singing: Glory, Glory. Let there be peace. Let it start with me.

Singing: Glory, Glory. Let there be peace. Let there be peace.

Singing: Glory, Glory. Let there be peace. Let it start in me.

Let there be peace. Let it start in me.

CCLI Song # 7071972 Chris Stevens | Matt Maher | Rachel Taylor

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